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# Colorado

## The Great Seal of Colorado



As documented in the State of Colorado archives, the circular Seal of the State of Colorado is an adaptation of the Territorial Seal which was adopted by the First Territorial Assembly on November 6, 1861. The only changes made in the Territorial Seal design being the substitution of the words, "State of Colorado" and the figures "1876" for the corresponding inscriptions on the territorial seal. The first General Assembly of the State of Colorado approved the adoption of the state seal on March 15, 1877. The

Colorado Secretary of State alone is authorized to affix the Great Seal of Colorado to any document whatsoever.

By statute, the seal of the State is two and one-half inches in diameter with the following devices inscribed thereon: At the top is the eye of God within a triangle, from which golden rays radiate on two sides. Below the eye is a scroll, the Roman fasces, a bundle of birch or elm rods with a battle axe bound together by red thongs and bearing on a band of red, white and blue, the word, "Union and Constitution." The Roman fasces is the insignia of a republican form of government. The bundle of rods bound together symbolizes strength which is lacking in the single rod. The axe symbolizes authority and leadership. Below the scroll is the heraldic shield bearing across the top on a red ground three snow-capped mountains with clouds above them. The lower half of the shield has two miner's tools, the pick and sledge hammer, crossed on a golden ground. Below the shield in a semicircle is the motto, "Nil Sine Numine", Latin words meaning "nothing without the Deity", and at the bottom the figures 1876, the year Colorado came into statehood.

The design for the Territorial Seal which served as a model for the State Seal or Great Seal of Colorado has been variously credited, but the individual primarily responsible was Lewis Ledyard Weld, the Territorial Secretary, appointed by President Lincoln in July of 1861. There is also evidence that Territorial Governor William Gilpin also was at least partially responsible for the design. Both Weld and Gilpin were knowledgeable in the art and symbolism of heraldry. Elements of design from both the Weld and Gilpin family coat-of-arms are incorporated in the Territorial Seal.





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## The Colorado State Seal



"The Secretary of State alone is authorized to affix the Great Seal of Colorado to any document whatsoever, and to pursue of law. As custodian of the Seal the Secretary of State is responsible for its safekeeping and official use."

- **History and Description**
- **Use of the Colorado State Seal**
- **Guidelines for use of the Colorado State Seal by Members of the Colorado General Assembly**

---

### History and Description

The circular Seal of the State of Colorado is an adaption of the Territorial Seal which was adopted by Joint Resolution of the Territorial Assembly on November 6, 1861. The statutory provision for the official seal of statehood was provided for by the First General Assembly of the State of Colorado, approved on March 15, 1877.

By statute, the Seal of the State is two and one-half inches in diameter with the following device inscribed thereon: a shield, the upper portion of which depicts three snowcapped mountains with clouds surrounding them; the lower portion depicts a miner's badge, as prescribed by the rules of heraldry; as a crest above the shield, the eye of God with rays proceeding from it; below the crest, and above the shield, as a scroll, is the Roman "fasces" which is a bundle of still-axe heads projecting, bound by a band imprinted with the words, "Union and Constitution"; below the whole motto, "Nil sine Numine" which commonly translated means "Nothing Without Providence"; the whole is surrounded by the words, "State of Colorado", "1876," the year of Colorado's statehood.

The official colors of the seal, fixed by a 1976 Executive Order, are as follows:

**Red:** The sky behind the mountains, the single band with the word "UNION" and the ring containing the words "STATE OF COLORADO, 1876";

**White:** The snowcaps of the three mountains, the clouds surrounding the mountains, the band with the word "AND", the ring containing the words "NIL SINE NUMINE", the triangle of the Eye of God, the fasces, and innermost ring;

**Dark Blue:** The mountains, the background behind the shield, the single band with the word "CONSTITUTION", a band dividing the year of statehood from the lettering "STATE OF COLORADO", the two dots separating the words "STATE OF COLORADO";

**Gold:** The Eye of God, the rays emanating from the Eye, the background in the lower shield, the small decorative

innermost white ring, and the ring situated between the red ring and outer silver ring of the seal;

**Silver:** The outside ring of the seal, the lettering "STATE OF COLORADO" and "1876", the ax head, the heads of tools, the two bands binding the fasces behind the two bands entitled "UNION" "CONSTITUTION", the outline of the dividing line between the upper and lower portions of the shield;

**Brown:** The handles of the miner's tools, the handle of the ax;

**Black:** The lettering of the words "UNION", "AND", "CONSTITUTION", the words "NIL SINE NUMINE", the outline cascade of the banner containing the words "NIL SINE NUMINE", the outlines encircling the small decorative circle innermost white circle, and the outlines of the single band "AND".

---

## Use of the Colorado State Seal

The design of the Colorado State Seal is determined by statute (CRS 24-80-901). The Secretary of State is given affix and monitor the use of the Colorado State Seal (CRS 24-80-903). Illegal use of the seal is a class 5 felony (C

Since the office of the Secretary of State receives numerous requests for use of the Colorado State Seal, the Secretary has implemented the following policies:

1. The actual seal itself, measuring two and one-half inches in diameter, may be used only by the Secretary official capacity.
2. A facsimile of the seal, which is any size except two and one-half inches in diameter, may be used by an organization or group authorized or established by an arm of the State of Colorado for official state functions or educational purposes.
3. A facsimile of the seal may not be used by any private organization, business, or political organization.

All requests for use of the Colorado State Seal must be submitted to the **Deputy Secretary of State** in writing. A request will be provided granting or denying the requested use based on the guidelines listed above.

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## Guidelines for use of the Colorado State Seal by Members of the Colorado General Assembly

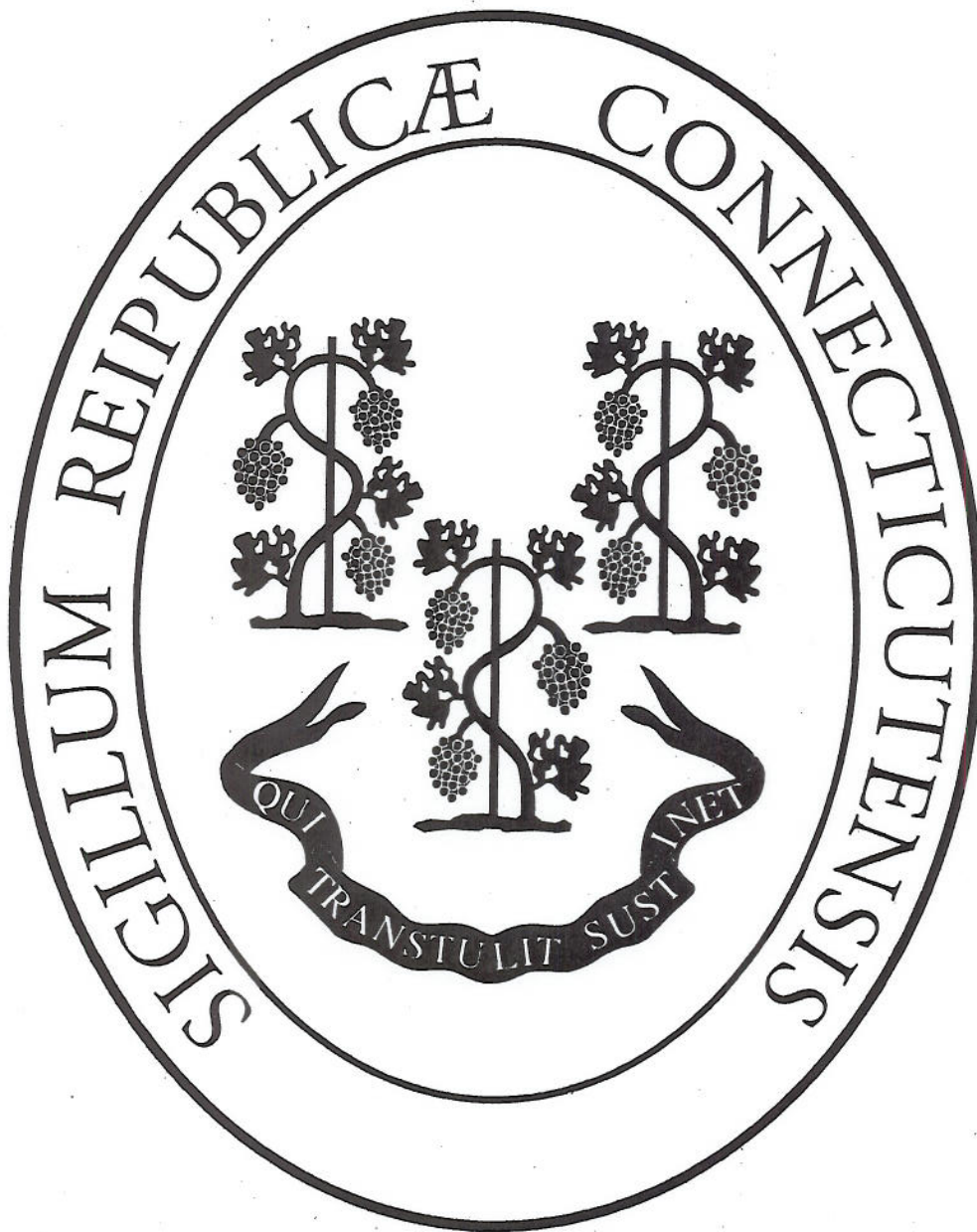
Memorandum to the Colorado General Assembly [Text Version](#)

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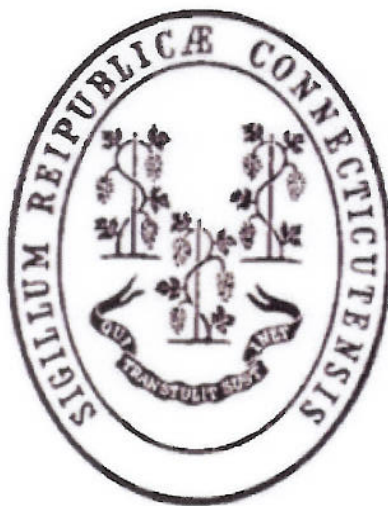
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# Connecticut

## The Great Seal of Connecticut



The Connecticut State Seal has changed over the years, but it still has similarities to some of the older versions of the state's seals. The original seal had 15 grapevines on it and the motto "Sustinet Qui Transtulit" (He Who Transplanted Still Sustains). That seal was carried over to this country from England in 1639. The words "Sigillum Coloniae Connecticutensis" (Seal of the Connecticut Colony) were added as the seal underwent revisions in later years.

After the Revolutionary War, as Connecticut gained statehood, the legend was changed to "Sigillum Reipublicae Connecticutensis" (Seal of the State of Connecticut).

The motto "Sustinet Qui Transtulit" remains the same as on the original. And some of those grape vines that were a prominent feature of the older seals made it to the current seal (three are on the present one).

State [Statute](#).



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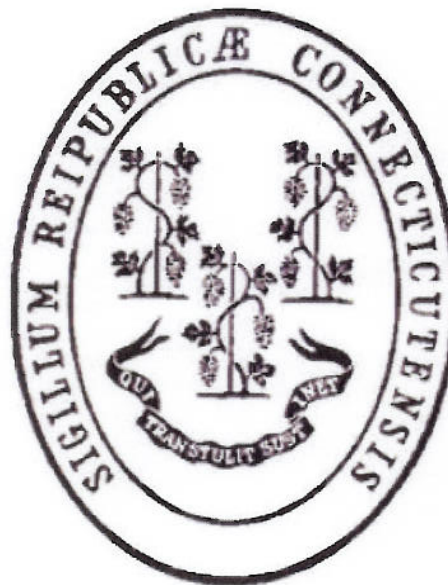


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CONNECTICUT



## The State Seal The Great Seal



After the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, the inscription on the colonial seal was no longer appropriate. Therefore, in May of 1784 the General Assembly directed the Secretary to alter the inscription to read "SIGILL. REIP. CONNECTICUTENSIS." However, when the new version of the seal was prepared, the inscription contained the words spelled out ---SIGILLUM REIPUBLIC. CONNECTICUTENSIS (Seal of the State of Connecticut). There has been no subsequent alteration to the official seal. In 1931, the General Assembly required that all representations of the state seal conform to the description in Chapter 54 of the Public Acts of that year. This legislation also prohibited reproduction of the seal except by order under the direction of the Secretary

of the State.

The Connecticut State Seal is an official emblem of the State.

### Reproduction of State Arms and Seal:

Please be advised that permission is required to reproduce the state arms and seal under Section 3-106a of the Connecticut General Statutes:

Sec. 3-106a. Reproduction of arms and seal. The official arms and seal of the State of Connecticut, or imitation thereof, whether as a reproduction, in whole or in part, or facsimile, shall be made and used only under the direction and with the approval of the Secretary of the State for purposes specifically authorized by the constitution and laws of the state or related directly or indirectly to the official business of the state, provided the secretary may in his judgment approve other reproductions of said arms or seal of the state for memorial and for purposes he considers educational.

To request permission to reproduce the "state arms and/or seal", please write to Connecticut Secretary of the State, Legislation and Elections Administration Division, 30 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106.

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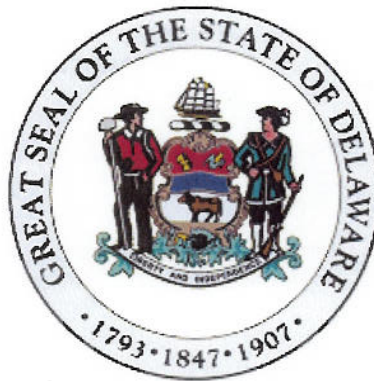
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# Delaware

## The Great Seal of Delaware



The Great Seal of the State of Delaware was adopted on January 17, 1777. Original elements of the seal are described below.

The images on Delaware's official great seal symbolize the foundations of the state's economy and a part of the state's history. Note that each of Delaware's three counties is represented.

- Delaware's agricultural vitality and basis is represented by a sheaf of wheat (adapted from the Sussex County seal) and an ear of Indian corn (adapted from the Kent County seal).
- The central role of farming is honored by a farmer holding his hoe.
- The importance of animal husbandry is represented by the ox.
- Contributions of citizens who bore arms to defend the rights of all Delaware's population are evidenced by the musket-toting American soldier.
- New Castle County's ship building industry and Delaware's Atlantic coastal commerce are honored by the sailing ship and the representation of the Delaware River above the ox.

There is a series of three dates on the seal above; 1793; 1847; and 1907. Each of these dates represents a year that a change was made to the seal.

- 1793 - The figures of the farmer and the soldier were eliminated from the seal.
- 1847 - The farmer and the soldier were restored and the motto, *Liberty and Independence*, was added on a ribbon at their feet. The motto was provided by the Society of the Cincinnati, a hereditary organization of Revolutionary War officers formed in 1783.
- 1907 - The seal was "modernized" and "THE DELAWARE STATE" was changed to "THE STATE OF DELAWARE".

On April 9, 2003, Representative Wayne Smith introduced House Bill No. 128 in to the Delaware House of Representatives. This bill suggested that the dates representing the physical changes to the seal be replaced by dates

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"...that have more substantial historic significance."

House Bill No. 128 proposed that the years 1704, 1776 and 1787 should replace the current dates on the seal and indicated the historical significance of the replacement dates.

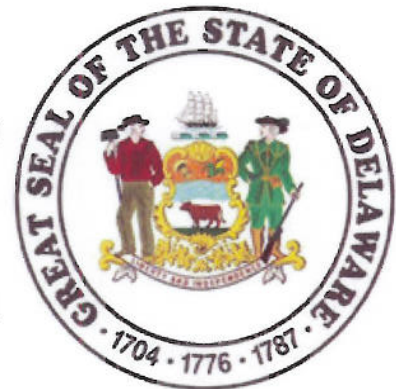
- 1704 - The year that Delaware established its First General Assembly.
- 1776 - The year that the colonies declared independence from Great Britain.
- 1787 - The year that Delaware became "The First State" to ratify the United States Constitution.

The bill was approved by the Delaware House of Representatives on April 29, 2004.

On June 17, 2004, sixth grader Yaxier Torres and seven of his classmates from [Bayard Elementary School](#) in Wilmington, entered Legislative Hall in Dover. They were there to speak on behalf of the date changes proposed by House Bill No. 128, explaining why the current dates on the seal were not relevant to Delaware history and confused them.

According to Delaware's *Newark Post*:

"When the strike of the gavel announced the opening of the afternoon session and HB 128 was introduced, one by one the students stepped to the podium and presented their case. The students cited historical, educational and economic value. When the role call for vote was made, the bill was unanimously passed."



2004 Delaware Seal

The Delaware House of Representatives and the Delaware Senate had both approved House Bill No. 128

On June 28, 2004, Governor Ruth Ann Minner signed the legislation that changed the dates on the Great Seal of the State of Delaware.

State [Statute](#).

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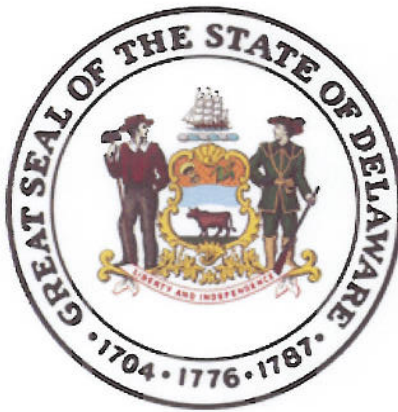
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**State Seal:**

The state seal was first adopted on January 17, 1777, and contains the coat of arms. It also bears the inscription around it "Great Seal of the State of Delaware" and the dates 1704, 1776 and 1787. Descriptions of the contents of the seal are as follows:

**The Wheat Sheaf** -- was adapted from the Sussex County seal and signifies the agricultural vitality of Delaware.

**The Ship** -- is a symbol of New Castle County's ship building industry and Delaware's extensive coastal commerce.

**The Corn** -- is taken from the Kent County seal and also symbolizes the agricultural basis of Delaware's economy.

**The Farmer** -- with the hoe represents the central role of farming to the state.

**The Militiaman** -- with his musket recognizes the crucial role of the citizen-soldier to the maintenance of American liberties.

**The Ox** -- represents the importance of animal husbandry to the state economy.

**The Water** -- (above the Ox) stands for the Delaware River, the main stay of the state's commerce and transportation.

**The Motto** -- was derived from the Order of Cincinnati, and approved in 1847.

**The Dates** -- 1704, the year that Delaware established its General Assembly; 1776, the year that our independence from Great Britain was declared; and 1787, the year that Delaware became "the First State" by being the first colony to ratify the United States Constitution.





# State of Delaware

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## DELAWARE FACTS AND SYMBOLS

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### Statehood:

December 7, 1787

### State Capital:

The town of New Castle, a port on the Delaware River, became the colonial capital of the "Three Lower Counties" (Delaware) in 1704. Under Pennsylvania's Deputy Governor John Evans, the assemblies of the colonies of Pennsylvania and Delaware separated though legislation enacted in both assemblies still required the Pennsylvania governor's signature. In November of 1704, four representatives from each county – New Castle, Kent, and Sussex met in the town and passed the colony's first two laws. One confirmed all laws previously enacted by the joint assembly of the colonies of Pennsylvania and Delaware. The second law changed the number of representatives from each county from four to six. William Rodeney of Kent County, grandfather of Caesar Rodney, served as the first-known speaker of the assembly. His grandson, Caesar, presided over the last colonial assembly in Delaware. The "Three Lower Counties" remained a part of Pennsylvania until 1776 when economic, cultural, and political differences fostered a permanent separation. The capital was moved from New Castle to Dover in 1777.

### State Location:

On the Eastern Seaboard of the United States, Delaware is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and Delaware Bay, as well as by the states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland. Delaware's location affords easy access to the major metropolitan areas of the Northeast. Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and Baltimore are all within a 2-hour drive.

### State Government:

During the early colonial period Delaware was identified as "The Three Lower Counties." Though the colony had its own assembly in 1704, it was still considered a part of Pennsylvania. On June 15, 1776, Delaware separated officially from Pennsylvania. Approximately three months later on September 20, 1776, representatives from the counties of New Castle, Kent, and Sussex adopted the state's first constitution. They established a bicameral form of government and identified the name of its government as "The Delaware State." This name changed to "State of Delaware" with the adoption of the second state constitution in 1792. Delaware's current constitution was adopted in 1897, but has been modernized with several amendments since that time. Today, Delaware has a cabinet form of

government.

The [General Assembly](#), Delaware's lawmaking body, is comprised of a State House of Representatives, whose 41 members are elected for two-year terms, and a State Senate, whose 21 members are elected for four-year terms. Half of the Senate seats are contested in each general election.

The [State Supreme Court](#) consists of a chief justice and four associate justices. All members are appointed by the governor, with confirmation by the Senate, for a term of 12 years.

#### Area:

Delaware ranks 49th in the nation with a total area of 1,982 square miles. New Castle County is 438 square miles. Kent County is 594 square miles. Sussex County is 950 square miles. Delaware is 96 miles long and varies from 9 to 35 miles in width.

#### Climate:

Delaware's climate is moderate year round. Average monthly temperatures range from 75.8 to 32.0 degrees. Average temperature in the summer months is 74.3 degrees. About 57% of the days are sunny. Annual precipitation is approximately 45 inches. Temperatures along the Atlantic Coast are about 10 degrees warmer in winter and 10 degrees cooler in summer. The average growing season varies from 170 to 200 days.

#### Elevation:

Highest -- 447.85 ft. above sea level near Ebright Road in New Castle County.  
Lowest -- sea level along the coast.

#### Population:

2000 Population Estimate - 783,600; 45th among the states; Density: 401 persons per square mile. For additional information, go to the [U.S. Census Bureau](#) web site.

#### Chief Products:

Agriculture -- broilers, soybeans, corn, milk.  
Fishing Industry -- crabs, clams.  
Manufacturing -- chemicals, food products, paper products, rubber and plastics products, primary metals, printed materials.  
Mining -- sand and gravel, magnesium compounds.

#### State Seal:



The state seal was first adopted on January 17, 1777, and contains the coat of arms. It also bears the inscription around it "Great Seal of the State of Delaware" and the dates 1704, 1776 and 1787. Descriptions of the contents of the seal are as follows:

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**The Dates** -- 1704, the year that Delaware established its General Assembly; 1776, the year that our independence from Great Britain was declared; and 1787, the year that Delaware became "the First State" by being the first colony to ratify the United States Constitution.

#### State Flag:



Adopted on July 24, 1913, the state flag has a background of colonial blue surrounding a diamond of buff color in which the coat of arms of the state of Delaware is placed. Below the diamond are the words "December 7, 1787," indicating the day on which Delaware was the first state to ratify the federal Constitution. Because of this action, Delaware became the first state in the Union, and is, therefore, accorded the first position in such national events as presidential inaugurations. According to members of the original commission established to design the flag, the shades of

buff and colonial blue represent those of the uniform of General George Washington as shown on a specific plate from an official U.S. Army publication.

#### State Colors:

Colonial blue and buff

#### State Motto:

Liberty and Independence

#### State Nickname: "The First State":

Delaware is known by this nickname due to the fact that on December 7, 1787, it became the first of the 13 original states to ratify the U.S. Constitution. "The First State" became the official State nickname on May 23, 2002 following a request by Mrs. Anabelle O'Malley's First Grade Class at Mt. Pleasant Elementary School.



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## TITLE 29

### State Government

#### PART I

#### General Provisions

### CHAPTER 3. STATE SEAL, SONG AND SYMBOLS

#### § 301. Great Seal.

The seal now used as the Great Seal of this State and bearing the arms of this State shall be the Great Seal of this State. It is emblazoned as follows: Party per fess, or and argent, the first charged with a garb (wheat sheaf) in bend dexter and an ear of maize (Indian Corn) in bend sinister, both proper; the second charged with an ox statant, ruminating, proper; fess, wavy azure, supporters on the dexter a husbandman with a hilling hoe, on the sinister a rifleman armed and accoutred at ease. Crest, on a wreath azure and argent, a ship under full sail, proper, with the words "Great Seal of the State of Delaware," the dates "1704, 1776, and 1787," and the words "Liberty and Independence" engraved thereon. (Code 1852, § 463; 24 Del. Laws, c. 89, § 1; Code 1915, § 387; Code 1935, § 361; 29 Del. C. 1953, § 501; 70 Del. Laws, c. 186, § 1; 74 Del. Laws, c. 276, § 1.)

#### § 302. Seal of state officials, courts and public officers.

The seals of the Secretary of State and Auditor of Accounts and of the several courts of this State and of the several public offices and officers in the several counties, now established and used, shall be the seals of such courts, offices and officers respectively and shall be so received and used. The seal of the office of the clerk of peace shall be the seal of the county government of Kent and Sussex Counties. The seal of the office of the clerk of the county council shall be the seal of the county government of New Castle County. (Code 1852, § 464; 21 Del. Laws, c. 114; Code 1915, § 388; Code 1935, § 362; 29 Del. C. 1953, § 502; 54 Del. Laws, c. 186; 55 Del. Laws, c. 85, § 38A.)

#### § 303. State song.

The official state song shall consist of the poem "Our Delaware" containing 3 verses, each verse in honor of a county of this State, written by George B. Hynson; a fourth verse in praise of the State and pledging the loyalties of its citizens, written by Donn Devine; and a musical score composed specifically for the state song by Will M. S. Brown.

REFER TO THE BOOK FOR THE PROPER TABLE

(34 Del. Laws, c. 253; Code 1935, § 2763; 29 Del. C. 1953, § 503; 61 Del. Laws, c. 45, §



1.)

**§ 304. State bird.**

The "blue hen chicken" is the official bird of the State. (42 Del. Laws, c. 128; 29 Del. C. 1953, § 504.)

**§ 305. State tree.**

The American holly ( *Ilex opaca*, Aiton ) is adopted as the state tree. (42 Del. Laws, c. 86; 29 Del. C. 1953, § 505.)

**§ 306. State flag.**

The design of the official state flag shall be as follows: A background of colonial blue surrounding a diamond of buff in which diamond is placed the correct coat of arms of the State in the colors prescribed by law and in accordance with § 301 of this title, with the words, "December 7, 1787," to be inscribed underneath the diamond.

The official state colors, colonial blue and buff, are designated by the Textile Color Card Association of the United States, Inc., New York, as "arno blue" Cable No. 10663, and "golden beige" Cable No. 10781 respectively; the color shades having been determined by Colorimetric Specifications of the National Bureau of Standards, United States Department of Commerce, in Test No. 2, 1/140565, dated November 18, 1954, which is on file with the Delaware Public Archives, Dover, Delaware. The colors of the coat of arms and other elements of the state flag shall be the following: Husbandman, trousers of gray brown, shirt of red, hat and hilling hoe of brown; rifleman, suit of green, binding, bag and leggings of buff, hat of brown, powder flask and feather of gray; shield, frame of shaded yellow, top panel of orange, center panel of blue, lower panel of white, ox of red brown, grass and corn of green, wheat and branches underfoot of yellow, heraldic wreath to be blue and silver (twisted); ship under full sail to have a dark hull and white sails; date, December 7, 1787, to be white; cord and tassels to be blue and gold. (29 Del. C. 1953, § 506; 50 Del. Laws, c. 288, § 1; 70 Del. Laws, c. 186, § 1; 72 Del. Laws, c. 91, § 10.)

**§ 307. Governor's flag.**

The official flag of the Governor of the State shall be identical to the official flag of this State except that it shall also bear a fringe of gold surrounding the edge of the flag and the pole upon which the Governor's flag is carried shall have mounted thereon a model of a blue hen's fighting cock. (29 Del. C. 1953, § 507; 50 Del. Laws, c. 290, § 1.)

**§ 308. State flower.**

The peach blossom, as originally adopted as the floral emblem of the State on May 9, 1895, shall be the official state flower. (29 Del. C. 1953, § 508; 50 Del. Laws, c. 289, § 1.)

**§ 309. State bug.**

The lady bug shall be the official state bug for the State. (59 Del. Laws, c. 300, § 1.)

**§ 310. State mineral.**

The official state mineral is sillimanite. (61 Del. Laws, c. 21, § 1.)

**§ 311. State fish.**

The weakfish (*Cynoscion* genus) is the official fish of the State. (63 Del. Laws, c. 90, § 1.)

**§ 312. State beverage.**

Milk shall be the official beverage of the State. (64 Del. Laws, c. 41, § 1.)

**§ 313. State herb.**

*Solidago odora*, commonly known as "sweet golden rod," shall be the official herb of the State. (70 Del. Laws, c. 386, § 1.)

**§ 314. State fossil.**

The official state fossil is the belemnite. (70 Del. Laws, c. 427, § 1.)

**§ 315. State butterfly.**

The tiger swallowtail ( *Pterourus glaucus* ) is the official butterfly of the State. (72 Del. Laws, c. 44, § 1.)

**§ 316. State soil.**

Greenwich loam (a coarse, loamy, mixed, semiactive, mesic, Typic Hapludult) is the official soil of the State. (72 Del. Laws, c. 288, § 1.)

**§ 317. State star.**

The official state star is Delaware Diamond, located in the constellation of Ursa Major (Great Bear), with coordinates of right ascension 9/fh40/fm44/fs and declination 48/d14/'2". (72 Del. Laws, c. 398, § 1.)

**§ 318. State nickname.**

The official nickname of the State is "The First State." (73 Del. Laws, c. 268, § 1.)

**§ 319. State marine animal.**

The official state marine animal is the horseshoe crab. (73 Del. Laws, c. 326, § 1.)

**§ 320. State macroinvertebrate.**

The stonefly (order Plecoptera ) is the official macroinvertebrate of the State. (75 Del. Laws, c. 37, § 1.)

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Contract No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Section \_\_\_\_\_  
Project Manager \_\_\_\_\_  
Description \_\_\_\_\_

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Approved As Noted \_\_\_\_\_  
Revise and Resubmit \_\_\_\_\_

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## The Florida State Seal

The Florida State Seal: [Color](#) and [Black and White](#).



In 1985, Secretary of State George Firestone presented the revised Great Seal of the State of Florida to the Governor and the Cabinet. The previous State Seal had several errors which were corrected in the 1985 Seal. This revised Seal has a Seminole Indian woman rather than a Western Plains Indian, the steamboat is more accurate, and the cocoa palm has been changed to a sabal palm as the Legislature prescribed in 1970.

### HISTORY OF THE STATE SEAL 1868-1985

The elements and basic design instructions for Florida's State Seal were established by the Legislature in 1868. Early that year, Florida's newly adopted State Constitution had directed that: "The Legislature shall, at the first session, adopt a seal for the state, and such seal shall be the size of an American silver dollar, but said seal shall not again be changed after its adoption by the Legislature."



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So the Legislature, acting quickly upon the mandate, passed and sent to Governor Harrison Reed a Joint Resolution on August 6, 1868 specifying "That a Seal of the size of the American silver dollar, having in the center thereof a view of the sun's rays over a high land in the distance, a cocoa tree, a steamboat on water, and an Indian female scattering flowers in the foreground, encircled by the words, 'Great Seal of the State of Florida: In God We Trust', be and the same is hereby adopted as the Great Seal of the State of Florida." Some people also consider the "In God We Trust" phrase the State Motto, although there is no official designation of a State Motto in the Florida Statutes.



(new window)

Florida's present Constitution, (Art. II, Sec. 4), continues to require the seal to be prescribed by law. In 1970, more than 100 years after the first specifications were drawn, the Florida Legislature made one change in the official description (CH. 15.03), changing "cocoa tree" in the former language to "Sabal palmetto palm." The sabal palmetto palm had been designated as State Tree in 1953.

Through the years, interpretations of the elements of the Great Seal have differed considerably. The steamboat, for instance, has been depicted in a variety of ways. The various images of the Indian female have drawn criticism from historians conscious of her clothing. The earliest official Great Seal pictured a mountainous background, something absent from the Florida terrain. Another effort showed a feather headdress on the Indian, a blunder insomuch as Indian *males* wore the headdresses.



(new window)

Through it all, however, the *elements* in the Great Seal have remained consistent. Chapter 15.03 of the Florida Statutes in addition to specifying elements of the Great Seal, provides that the Department of State shall be the custodian of it, and that the Department of State alone has the authority to approve its use or display. A further provision prohibits any commercial use of the Great Seal.





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# Florida

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## The Great Seal of Florida



[Look closer](#)

In 1868, Florida's new State Constitution mandated that the first session of the Legislature must adopt a seal to represent the state. And the Legislature lost no time in coming up with a Joint Resolution that they sent to the Governor in August of that year. The resolution specified that the seal had to be the size of an American silver dollar. It also stated that the seal should contain the sun's rays, a cocoa tree, a steamboat, and a female Indian scattering flowers. These images were to be circled by the words "Great Seal of the State of Florida: In God We Trust."

Several changes have occurred on the seal over the years, although the basic design has been maintained. The Indian woman has changed her clothing and taken off her feathered headdress (only male Seminoles wore headdresses) so that she is now a more authentic Seminole Indian. A mountain in the background has been flattened (Florida has no mountains). The steamboat has been repaired a few times. And a sabal palm has been transplanted in place of the original cocoa tree to reflect the state's adoption of the sabal palmetto palm as the official state tree in 1953.

The latest revisions took place in 1985 and this version of the Great Seal of the State of Florida appears to have been generally accepted as the definitive version.

Florida State [Statute](#).

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# Georgia

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## The Great Seal of of the State of Georgia



The Great Seal of the state of Georgia features a symbolic image of the Constitution as an arch that is supported by three pillars. The pillars represent the three branches of government; the legislature, the judicial, and the executive. Banners worded Wisdom, Justice, and Moderation, (Georgia's official motto) hang from the pillars. The principles of the Constitution are symbolically protected by a man standing ready with a drawn sword. Circling the images are the words "State of Georgia 1776". In 1914, the

legislature decided that 1776, representing the Declaration of Independence, was more appropriate than the 1799 date that formerly displayed on the seal.

The seal's other side reads "Agriculture and Commerce 1776", and the image is of the seashore with a ship at anchor near a wharf receiving hogsheads of tobacco and bales of cotton; Georgia exports. A small boat can be seen in the distance representing internal traffic. A man is shown plowing in a field and a flock of sheep is shown in the shade of a tree representing the agricultural aspects of the state.



State [Statute](#).

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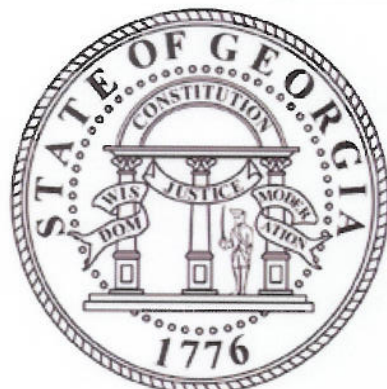


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## State Seal

*front**back*

The current Great Seal of Georgia was adopted by the State Constitution of 1798. On its front side appear three pillars supporting an arch, emblematic of the three branches of government - the legislative, judicial and executive. A man stands with a drawn sword defending the Constitution whose principles are wisdom, justice and moderation.

The reverse of the Seal shows a ship with cotton and tobacco, and a man plowing, representing the agriculture and commerce of the Seal's motto. In 1914, the date on the Seal was changed from 1799 to 1776 to correspond with the date of the Declaration of Independence. By law, the Secretary of State is the official custodian of the Great Seal, which is attached to official papers by executive order of the Governor.